

LOCAL ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES.

Members of the New York Entomological Society and all others are solicited to contribute to this column their rare captures, local lists and other items of interest relating to the insect fauna of New York City and vicinity.

EGG-CAPSULES OF *CHRYSOCHUS AURATUS* (FAB.).

By J. L. ZABRISKIE.

On July 2, 1895, a few imagos of *Chrysochus auratus* were taken on a small patch of the Spreading Dogbane, *Apocynum androsæmifolium*, growing beside a certain street in Flatbush, L. I. On the 9th of the same month, while examining the same plants, a specimen of *Chrysochus* was discovered ovipositing in the opening at the summit of a little black cone, on a fence post close by the plants. In the open crater of the little cone was an egg, evidently just deposited, and close by the first cone was situated a similar little black cone entirely closed. Similar little black masses were found on the stems and especially on the under surface of the leaves of the plants near at hand.

These black masses are evidently the egg-capsules of *Chrysochus*. On the 20th of the same month two of these collected capsules were opened, one of which contained what appeared to be four empty egg shells, and the other contained two plump apparently living eggs. None of these, however, hatched in captivity.* The capsules measure about 3 mm. in length by 2 mm. in height, although frequently two capsules are joined and partly overlap each other. Their substance is composed of a thin but firm layer of minute brown and black pellets, moulded in a conical or irregular ovoid form—probably the excrement of the imago. Under the microscope the macerated and crushed material shows no particular structure, but spores of saprophytic fungi, such as are commonly attached to decaying vegetation, and minute grains of sand are frequently in the field of view.

* The larvæ after hatching drop to the ground and live on the roots of the plant.—H. B.